

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS DEPT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: LABOR EXCHANGE VISIT: MICHEL DIDIER OF LABOR MINISTRY

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY IS SEEKING PROMOTE EXCHANGE VISITS OF SENIOR US AND FRENCH TECHNICIANS IN LABOR-MANPOWER FIELD. MINISTRY OF LABOR PROPOSES VISIT BY MICHEL DIDIER 15-25 NOVEMBER. END SUMMARY.
2. EMBASSY HAS INCLUDED AMONG ITS PRIORITY GOALS PROMOTION OF EXCHANGE VISITS BETWEEN SENIOR FRENCH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TECHNICIANS IN LABOR-MANPOWER FIELD.
3. IN VIEW OF THE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING US AND FRENCH INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETIES--PROBLEMS WHICH DEFY TRADITIONAL SOLUTIONS -- AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE MIGHT HELP USG AND GOF FIND NEW WAYS OF MEETING THESE PERSISTENT CHALLENGES.
4. EMBASSY HAS NOTED COUNTLESS EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION BY PROMINENT FRENCH LEADERS, IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, WHO BENEFITED FROM EXCHANGE VISITS TO THE US IN THE 50'S UNDER MARSHALL PLAN, AND WHO REGRET THAT MANY YOUNGER OFFICIALS HAVE NOT HAD SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY.

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5. IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER EXPERIENCE, LABOR-MANPOWER EXCHANGES

WOULD BE FINANCED BY PARTICIPANT'S GOVERNMENT, WITH HOST COUNTRY BEING RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM AND FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE.

6. IN LINE WITH FOREGOING, AND FOLLOWING APPROACH TO LABATT BY MINISTER OF LABOR AND HIS DIRECTOR OF CABINET, GOF HAS TENTATIVE PLANS TO SEND MICHEL DIDIER TO US. DIDIER, PRESENTLY IN MINISTER'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOF POLICY ON EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, LABOR STATISTICS, AND MANPOWER RESEARCH.

7. WHILE DETAILED BIO DATA WILL BE FURNISHED IN A FEW DAYS, DIDIER CAN BE DESCRIBED AS EXAMPLE OF FRENCH ADMINISTRATION ELITE, COMBINING EXCEPTIONAL PERSONAL QUALITIES AND EXCELLENT EDUCATION. IN 1971 HE VISITED US FOR TWO WEEKS AS STAFF MEMBER OF MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DEBRE) IN CHARGE OF THE BUDGET. HIS INTEREST AT THAT TIME WAS GOVERNMENT USE OF COMPUTER. HE STILL SPEAKS WITH GREAT APPRECIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THAT WELL-ORGANIZED VISIT. DIDIER'S 100-PAGE REPORT ON US VISIT WAS IN SUCH DEMAND WITHIN GOF THAT 400 COPIES WERE QUICKLY EXHAUSTED.

8. IF AGREEABLE TO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LABOR MINISTRY PROPOSES THAT DIDIER VISIT US 15-25 NOVEMBER. HIS PRINCIPLE INTERESTS ARE: (A) ROLE AND FUNCTION OF FEDERAL AND STATE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR. (B) STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES OF BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. (C) RESEARCH CENTERS, BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE, FOCUSSED ON MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS.

9. DETERMINED TO MAKE THE MOST OF HIS VISIT, DIDIER IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW ANY PROGRAM LABOR DEPARTMENT MAY PROPOSE. HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIPT OF SUGGESTED PROGRAM AS FAR AHEAD AS HIS DEPARTURE AS POSSIBLE FOR INTERNAL GOF PURPOSES. HE WOULD WELCOME VISITS TO AT LEAST ONE STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, PREFERABLY NEW YORK OR PENNSYLVANIA.

10. HE IS AWARE THAT PERIOD OF VISIT INCLUDES THANKSGIVING DAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IF HOME HOSPITALITY WERE EXTENDED TO DIDIER ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY.

11. DIDIER SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, IS A FRIEND OF US, RESPONSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PERSONAL CONTACT AND VERY INTELLIGENT.

12. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S VIEWS, BOTH ON DIDIER VISIT AND EMBASSY PROPOSAL TO PROMOTE EXCHANGE VISITS IN LABOR-MANPOWER FIELD. IF LABOR DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH PROPOSAL, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SENDING ONE OF ITS OWN EXPERTS TO FRANCE.

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